UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,619	02/02/2001	Makoto Hara	2091-0232P	6945

			EXAMINER
2292	7590	06/02/2005	SINGH, SATWANT K

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>30 December 2004</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☒ Other: <u>Detailed Action</u>

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Amendment filed on December

30, 2004.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5, -10, 12 and 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Leong et al. (US 6,687,018) in view of Al-Kazily et al. (US 6,621,589).

5.   Regarding Claim 1, Leong et al teach a printing system (network printing system

100) comprising: at least one customer service system (spooler server 410) for

receiving, order information representing the content of an order of a customer for a

print (spooler 410 receives print requests from one or more clients 200); a plurality of

laboratory servers (output devices 500) for outputting the print based on the order

information transferred from the customer service system that has received the order

information; and an order assigning system existing between the at-least-one customer service system and the laboratory servers, for receiving the order information from the customer service system, for selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print based on predetermined information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server (supervisor 420 receives the print jobs from the spooler 410, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters, passes the print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500, and handles any responses made by the output device 500) (col. 6, lines 4-24).

Leong et al fail to teach a printing system distinctly pointing out that the order information (print data) is transferred via a network, even though the printing system being taught is called a network printing system.

Al-Kazily et al teach a printing system, distinctly pointing out that the order information (print data) is transferred via a network (Fig. 1) (network 108) (client computers 102 and 104 communicate with the printers 106 over a data communications network 108).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong with the teaching of Al-Kazily to transmit print data to the printers via a network since it is common practice for computers to communicate with printers via a network.

6.   Regarding Claim 2, Leong et al teach a printing system, the customer service system transferring the order information and flow information representing a flow of the print to the order assigning system, and the order assigning system using the flow

information as the predetermined information (supervisor 420 receives the print jobs

from the spooler 410, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters,

passes the print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500,

and handles any responses made by the output device 500) (col. 4, lines 4-24).

7.   Regarding Claim 3, Leong et al teach a printing system, wherein the order

assigning system detects a load status of each of the laboratory servers at the time of

receiving the order information and uses a result of the detection as the predetermined

information (Fig. 6, S800).

8.   Regarding Claim 5, Leong et al teach a printing system, wherein the

predetermined information is information specifying one of the laboratory servers

described in the order information by the customer (spooler 410 can also receive client

management requests that apply to the spooler 410 or to spooler elements, which

include the logical printers 412) (col. 4, lines 4-18).

9.   Regarding Claim 7, Leong et al teach a printing system, the order assigning

system transferring information related to the selected laboratory to the customer

service system that received the order information (spooler 410 can also receive client

management requests that apply to the spooler 410 or to spooler elements, which

include the logical printers 412), the customer service system generating selection

information for determining a desired one of the laboratory servers based on the

information and transferring the selection information to the order assigning system

(spooler 410 converts the print requests into print jobs), and the order assigning system

using the selection information as the predetermined information (supervisor 420

receives the print jobs from the spooler, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters, passes the print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500) (col. 4, lines 4-41).

10.   Regarding Claim 8, Leong et al teach a printing system comprising: a plurality of laboratory servers (output devices 500) for outputting a print based on order information representing the content of an order for the print; and at least one order receiving assigning system for receiving the order information from a customer, for selecting, based on predetermined information, one of the laboratory servers to output the print (spooler 410 can also receive client management requests that apply to the spooler 410 or to spooler elements, which include the logical printers 412) (col. 4, lines 4-18), and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server (supervisor 420 receives the print jobs from the spooler 410, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters, passes the print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500, and handles any responses made by the output device 500) (col. 4, lines 4-41).

Leong et al fail to teach a printing system distinctly pointing out that the order information (print data) is transferred via a network, even though the printing system being taught is called a network printing system.

Al-Kazily et al teach a printing system, distinctly pointing out that the order information (print data) is transferred via a network (Fig. 1) (network 108) (client computers 102 and 104 communicate with the printers 106 over a data communications network 108).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong with the teaching of Al-Kazily to transmit print data to the printers via a network since it is common practice for computers to communicate with printers via a network.

11.   Claim 9 is rejected for the same reason as claim 2.

12.   Claim 10 is rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

13.   Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as claim 5.

14.   Claim 14 is rejected for the same reason as claim 7.

15.   Regarding Claim 15, Leong et al teach a printing method for outputting a print by using a plurality of laboratory servers based on order information representing the content of an order for the print, the printing method comprising the steps of: receiving the order information transferred from a customer service system receiving the order information described by a customer (spooler 410 receives print requests from one or more clients 200); selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print, based on predetermined information (spooler 410 can also receive client management requests that apply to the spooler 410 or to spooler elements, which include the logical printers 412) (col. 4, lines 4-18); and transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server (supervisor 420 receives the print jobs from the spooler, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters, passes the print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500) (col. 4, lines 4-41).

Leong et al fail to teach a printing system distinctly pointing out that the order

information (print data) is transferred via a network, even though the printing system

being taught is called a network printing system.

Al-Kazily et al teach a printing system, distinctly pointing out that the order

information (print data) is transferred via a network (Fig. 1) (network 108) (client

computers 102 and 104 communicate with the printers 106 over a data communications

network 108).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong with the teaching of Al-

Kazily to transmit print data to the printers via a network since it is common practice for

computers to communicate with printers via a network.

16.   Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as claim 15.

17.   Regarding Claim 17, Long et al teach a printing method for outputting a print by

using a plurality of laboratory servers based on order information representing the

content of an order for the print and transferred, the printing method comprising the

steps of: receiving the order information described by a customer (spooler 410 receives

print requests from one or more clients 200); selecting one of the laboratory servers to

output the print, based on predetermined information spooler 410 can also receive client

management requests that apply to the spooler 410 or to spooler elements, which

include the logical printers 412) (col. 4, lines 4-18); and transferring the order

information to the selected laboratory server (supervisor 420 receives the print jobs from

the spooler, interprets the print jobs for print instructions and parameters, passes the

print data, instructions and parameters to the appropriate output device 500) (col. 4,

lines 4-41).

Leong et al fail to teach a printing system distinctly pointing out that the order

information (print data) is transferred via a network, even though the printing system

being taught is called a network printing system.

Al-Kazily et al teach a printing system, distinctly pointing out that the order

information (print data) is transferred via a network (Fig. 1) (network 108) (client

computers 102 and 104 communicate with the printers 106 over a data communications

network 108).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong with the teaching of Al-

Kazily to transmit print data to the printers via a network since it is common practice for

computers to communicate with printers via a network.

18.   Claims 18-21 are rejected for the same reason as claim 17.

19.   Claims 4, 6, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Leong et al. and Al-Kazily et al. as applied to claim1 above, and

further in view of Schwarz, Jr. (US 6,479,927).

20.   Regarding Claim 4, Leong et al and Al-Kazily et al fail to teach a printing system

wherein the predetermined information is an address of the customer included in the

order information.

Schwarz teaches a printing system, wherein the predetermined information is an

address of the customer included in the order information (token printer assignment

system where the job ticket token includes the characteristic information regarding a print job (col. 4, lines 48-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong and Al-Kazily with the teaching of Schwarz to add the customer address and content of the order to the predetermined information to identify the owners and contents of the print jobs.

21.   Regarding Claim 6, Leong et al and Al-Kazily et al fail to teach a printing system, wherein the predetermined information is the content of the order included in the order information.

Schwarz teaches a printing system, wherein the predetermined information the content of the order included in the order information (token printer assignment system where the job ticket token includes the characteristic information regarding a print job (col. 4, lines 48-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Leong and Al-Kazily with the teaching of Schwarz to add the customer address and content of the order to the predetermined information to identify the owners and contents of the print jobs.

22.   Claim 11 is rejected for the same reason as claim 4.

23.   Claim 13 is rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

Conclusion

24.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Yacoub (US 6,552,813) discloses a virtual printer for print jobs printed on

networked printers.

Yagita (US 6,654,137) disclose a print system which is capable of selected a

client to which detailed print information is transmitted from among a plurality of clients

when a user performs manual-feed printing in a network environment.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571)

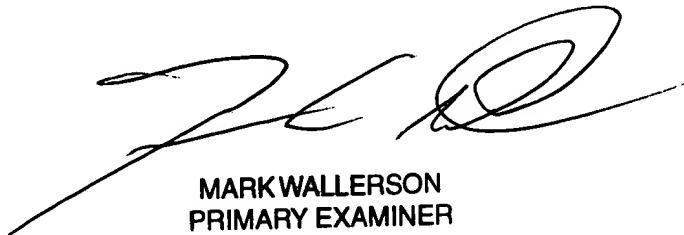272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am -

4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-

872-9306.

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2626

sks

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER